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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00623 210912Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W
----------099176 210919Z /23
O R 210841Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4252
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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DEPT FOR A/SY/FO, A/SY/CC; USIA FOR IOS AND IEU
USDEL AIRCRAFT FOR ADVANCE AGENT D'URSO; FRANKFURT FOR RSS

SY CHANNEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: BOMB EXPLOSION - USIS CULTURAL CENTER - THESSALONIKI, GREECE

1. SUMMARY

AT APPROX 0230 HRS, 21 JAN 78, AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETONATED INSIDE THE USIS CULTURAL CENTER IN THESSALONIKI, CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE, INFORMATION WAS ALSO RECEIVED FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL THAT A SECOND EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETONATED AT THE AMERICAN EXPRESS OFFICE IN THESSALONIKI. BOTH DEVICES WERE TIMED (CLOCKWORK MECHANISM) TO EXPLODE AT THE SAME TIME. NO INDIVIDUAL GROUP HAS AS YET CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY.

2. DETAILS:
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AT APPROX. 9800 HRS, THE CONSUL GENERAL WAS NOTIFIED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT A BOMB HAD EXPLODED AT THE USIS CULTURAL CENTER. THE RSO WAS NOTIFIED, AND CONSUL GENERAL PROCEEDED TO THE SCENE WHERE THE FOLLOWING INFO WAS RELAYED BY TELEPHONE. POLICE ADVISED THAT THEY HAD DISCOVERED PIECES OF THE CLOCKWORK MECHANISM UTILIZED TO DETONATE THE DEVICE, BUT AS YET

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WERE UNABLE TO DETERMINE THE TYPE OF EXPLOSIVE UTILIZED,
OR AN APPROXIMATE SIZE. THE DEVICE WAS PLANTED IN THE CORRIDOR,
ON THE ELEVATOR LANDING OUTSIDE THECULTURAL CENTER WHICH IS
LOCATED ON THE 4TH (US) FLOOR OF A COMMERCIAL BUILDING. FROM
EVIDENCE FOUND AT THE SCENE THE DEVICE WAS IMPLANTED IN A
CARDBOARD BOX, WHICH HAD BEEN UTILIZED BY USIS FOR TRASH.
THE TRASH RESULTED FROM A RECEPTION WHICH WAS HELD DURING THE
EVENING OF 20 JAN TO OPEN AN EXHIBITION OF ART BY AN AMERICAN
ARTIST AT THE CULTURAL CENTER.

3. THE CONSUL GENERAL DESCRIBED THE DAMAGE TO THE 4TH FLOOR
AS MINIMAL, MOSTLY DAMAGE TO DOOR FRAMES AND WINDOWS AND ONE WALL.
CONSIDERABLY MORE DAMAGE WAS INCURRED ON THE THIRD FLOOR WHICH
IS OCCUPIED BY FINA OIL COMPANY AND THE NATIONAL TOURIST
ORGANIZATION OF GREECE.

4. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM A CHAR WOMAN INDICATES SHE OBSERVED
TWO YOUNG MALES WHO MAY BE PERPETRATORS, AND THAT SHE CAN
IDENTIFY THEM. POLICE ARE FOLLOWING UPON THIS INFO.

5. DETAILED REPORT TO FOLLOW WHEN INFO AND PHOTOGRAPHIC
EXHIBITS ARE RECEIVED.
MILLS

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: SY
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS00623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780137/aaaabffr.tel
Line Count: 85
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3735506
Secure: LOCK1
Status: <DBA CHANGED> VJT 20040819
Subject: BOMB EXPLOSION - USIS CULTURAL CENTER - THESSALONIKI, GREECE
TAGS: ASEC
To: SECRETARY STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/180f25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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